

US Business Leaders Urged not to Invest in Turkey While Brunson Held

U.S. religious leaders are urging American companies not to do business with Turkey so long as pastor Andrew Brunson remains imprisoned in the country.

The Turkey-U.S. Business Council (TAİK) will host its Ninth Turkey Investment Conference in New York on Sept. 26. The goal is to get American executives and business leaders to invest in the Middle Eastern country.

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan will attend and meet with nearly 400 investors, TAİK officials said.

However, U.S. religious leaders say Erdoğan cannot be trusted, especially while he is holding an American pastor hostage in Turkey.

“What does the Brunson case have to do with business? Everything. A leader who will behave as Erdogan has will violate every agreement one can imagine if it’s in the interest of preserving his power and his personal fortune,” Rev. Johnnie Moore, a member of the U.S. Commission on International Freedom (USCIRF), told CBN News.

“The U.S. business community should join a united chorus of Democrats and Republicans and send a clear message to Erdogan that as long as Turkey holds Brunson, Turkey is too risky for business. There is no room for business as usual with Turkey as long as this obviously innocent husband, father and pastor is held hostage by Erdogan.”

The USCIRF wrote a letter to President Donald Trump and other U.S. officials expressing its concerns about the conference.

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